

Application Number 10/511478
Response to the Office Action mailed October 26, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic probe, comprising:
 - an insertion portion having a storage portion disposed at a foremost end, the storage portion comprising:
 - an ultrasonic element for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic waves;
 - a pressurized sound window enclosing the ultrasonic element;
 - a grip portion attached to the insertion portion distal from the foremost end of the insertion portion,
 - an elastic reserve tank disposed inside a wall of the grip portion;
 - a charged sound propagation liquid in the sound window and in communication with the elastic reserve tank; and
 - a barrier layer on an internal wall surface of the sound window
 - wherein the wall of the elastic reserve tank is separate from the wall of the grip portion; and
 - the elastic reserve tank absorbs changes of pressure of the charged sound propagation liquid in the sound window to maintain the pressure within and shape of the sound window.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the barrier layer comprises at least one selected from a polyparaxylylene layer and a metal layer.

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4. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a polyparaxylylene layer and the layer thickness of the polyparaxylylene layer is in the range from 0.1 μm to 500 μm .
5. (Currently Amended) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a polyparaxylylene layer formed as a polyparaxylylene resin layer by a chemical vapor deposition of diparaxylylene or the a derivative thereof.
6. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal layer and the metal layer comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gold, nickel and platinum.
7. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal layer and the thickness of the metal layer is in the range from 0.1 μm to 30 μm .
8. (Previously Presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a plurality of layers.